

Message Text

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ACTION AID-31

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-03 PC-01 USIA-06 IO-11

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 AGR-05 INT-05 FDRE-00

COME-00 NEA-10 /098 W

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P R 121819Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3127

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 NIAMEY 1083

PARIS FOR BROWN AND HELMAN

ROME FOR SKILES

BRUSSELS FOR LUCY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJ: NIGER FOOD SITUATION

REF: A) PARIS 6779 B) NIAMEY 0652

1. SUMMARY. FOLLOWING OUTLINES CURRENT NIGER FOOD SITUATION
AND OUTLOOK AS PERCEIVED HERE. OUR VIEWS GIVEN BELOW ARE VERY
CLOSE TO THOSE OF THE LOCAL FAO ADVISOR. END SUMMARY.

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2. THE CURRENT FOOD SITUATION THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY IS VERY TIGHT. GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES ARE BEING DISTRIBUTED IN VERY LIMITED AMOUNTS AND MAINLY FOR SALE. A RECENT FIELD TRIP BY FFP/NIAMEY IN THE TERA/BANKILARE AREA INDICATES THAT LOCAL AUTHORITIES ARE WITH HOLDING FREE DISTRIBUTION EXCEPT IN CASES OF EXTREME HARDSHIP. THE MARKET REFLECTS THE VERY TIGHT FOOD SITUATION. ACCORDING TO FAO ADVISOR GARA, LAST SUNDAY, MARCH 7, MILLET AND WHITE SORGHUM WAS SELLING IN NIAMEY MARKET FOR 5000 CFA A BAG. GARA SAYS THIS WAS THE PRICE PREVAILING IN NIAMEY IN AUGUST 1974.

3. TOTAL GON GRAIN STOCKS (IN 120 STORAGE LOCATIONS) AS OF JANUARY 31 TOTALLED 15,148 TONS OF MILLET, 4,731 TONS OF SORGHUM, 4,445 TONS OF RICE, 2,113 TONS OF CORN AND 258 TONS OF WHEAT. SEE SEPTTEL FOR COMPLETE STOCK RUNDOWN. TO THIS WOULD HAVE TO BE ADDED LOCAL PURCHASES BY OPVN DURING THE FALL WHICH TOTALLED BETWEEN 12,000 AND 14,000 TONS OF MILLET (WE GET DIFFERENT FIGURES) AND 6,000 TONS OF SORGHUM. THSUFFP OFFICER BELIEVES THAT SOME OF THE JANUARY 31 MILLET STOCKS INCLUDES SOME OF THE LOCAL MILLET PURCHASES. HOWEVER THE SUPPLY SITUATION AS OF ABOUT JANUARY 31 PROBABLY AMOUNTED TO ABOUT

- 27,000 TONS MILLET
- 10,400 TONS SORGHUM
- 2,100 TONS CORN
- 250 TONS WHEAT

4. AS NOTED IN REF B, PARA 4, "PIPELINE" IMPORTS OF 25,300 TONS WERE EXPECTED TO BE DELIVERED IN NIGER BASED ON PLEDGES FROM VARIOUS DONORS LAST YEAR. AMOUNTS WHICH HAVE ARRIVED ARE AS FOLLOWS: FRANCE - 7,000 TONS (DECEMBER). FED- 7,000 TONS (FEBRUARY/MARCH); PAKISTAN - 5,000 TONS OF RICE (DECEMBER); AND US-2300 TONS OF SORGHUM (DECEMBER-JANUARY), FOUR THOUSAND TONS OF WFP GRAIN HAS NOT YET BEEN PROCURED AND THE FAO ADVISOR REPORTS IT IS UNLIKELY TO ARRIVE UNTIL JULY-AUGUST.

5. NIGER HAS ORDERED 10,000 TONS OF MILLET FROM UPPER VOLTA AND 5,000 TONS OF SORGHUM AND MILLET FROM ALI/REPORTEDLY PAID OUT OF ITS SOLIDARITY FUND. THE FAO ADVISOR REPORTS THAT TO DATE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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1,000 TONS HAVE BEEN DELIVERED FROM UPPER VOLTA AND 1,000 TONS FROM MALI. THE MALI GRAIN IS REPORTED TO HAVE COST 39 CFA PER KILO DELIVERED NIAMEY. THE INITIAL SHIPMENTS FROM MALI ARE REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN HEAVILY INFESTED.

6. OSRO IS ATTEMPTING TO PURCHASE 5,000 MORE TONS OF GRAIN IN MALI USING FRG FUNDS. GARA REPORTS THAT THE GOM IS OFFERING TO SUPPLY 2-YEAR OLD GRAIN AT A PRICE OF ABOUT 45 CFA/KILO,

ON CONDITION THAT OSRO/FRG ALSO PURCHASE LOCALLY NEW GRAIN TO REPLENISH THE STOCKS THUS DRAWN DOWN. OSRO IS ALSO ATTEMPTING TO PROCURE WITH FRG FUNDING 3,000 TONS OF SORGHUM/MILLET IN UPPER VOLTA.

7. IN ALL, 15,000 TONS OF CEREALS HAVE BEEN CONTRACTED FOR FROM UPPER VOLTA AND MALI AND OSRO IS ATTEMPTING TO CONTRACT FOR 8,000 MORE.

8. THE SITUATION ON 1975/76 DONOR FOOD AID DELIVERIES IS BECOMING CLEARER. ACCORDING TO REF A, 7,000 TONS OF FRENCH AND 10,000 TONS OF FED CEREAL FOOD AID IS BEING SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN COTONOU IN MAY. GARA INFORMS THE MISSION THAT 5,000 TONS OF UK SORGHUM (PROCURED IN EUROPE) HAS BEEN CONFIRMED BY LETTER TO THE GON AND MAY BE EXPECTED IN COTONOU IN APRIL. MISSION UNDERSTANDS THAT CANADA WILL SHIP 5,000 TONS OF HARD WHEAT OR THE EQUIVALENT IN FLOUR TO AGADEZ ACROSS THE SAHARA WITH ETA POSSIBLY IN MAY/JUNE. 6,000 TONS OF US SORGHUM ARE BEING SCHEDULED FOR DELIVERY VIA APAPA AND ABIDJAN WITH CURRENT ETA IN MAY. THE MISSION HAS ASKED AID/W (NAIMEY 1048) TO TRY AND ADVANCE DELIVERY IF AT ALL POSSIBLE FOR AN APRIL ARRIVAL. A FURTHER 15,000 TONS OF US SORGHUM IS IN NEGOTIATION AND THE MISSION HAS REQUESTED AID/W TO MAKE ADVANCE PREPARATION FOR MAY DELIVERY (PROBABLY VIA APAPAJO ABIDJAN AND POSSIBLY LOME). IN SUMMARY, GRAIN SHIPMENTS FROM OVERSEAS OF SOME 48,000 TONS IN THE PERIOD APRIL-JUNE APPEAR "IN SIGHT":

UK - 5,000
CANADA - 5,000
FED - 10,000
FAC - 7,000
US - 21,000
48,000

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9. THERE IS ALSO TALK ABOUT ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE AS
FOLLOWS. THE WFP IS PLANNING TO PROCURE 7,500 TONS OF
GRAIN IN UPPER VOLTA. CANADA IS PROVIDING \$1 MILLION
FOR GRAIN PURCHASE (ABOUT 5,500 TONS) POSSIBLY IN UPPER
VOLTA.

10. AS NOTED IN REF A, FED AND FRANCE ARE CONSIDERING
FURTHER ASSISTANCE TOTALLING 10,000 AND 7,000 TONS OF GRAINS.
IT IS UNLIKELY THAT ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ADDITIONAL FRENCH/FED
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ASSISTANCE COULD BE MADE TO PERMIT DELIVERY BEFORE JULY/AUGUST.

11. THERE IS BEGINNING TO BE PLACED A GREAT DEAL OF HOPE ON
GRAIN PROCUREMENT IN UPPER VOLTA, VIZ:

OPVN - 10,000 TONS

OSRO/FRG - 3,000 TONS

WFP - 7,500 TONS

CANADA - 5,500 TONS

26,000 TONS

EMBASSY/OUAGA VIEWS ON THE AVAILABILITY OF SUCH QUANTITIES ARE REQUESTED.

12. WE BELIEVE THAT EXPECTATIONS OF AVAILABILITIES FROM UPPER VOLTA ARE MLTIMISTIC. ONE POSSIBILITY WHICH OUGHT TO BE EXPLORED (WE HAVE SUGGESTED THIS TO THE LOCAL FAO ADVISOR) IS THE AVAILABILITY THIS YEAR OF CORN FROM GHANA. (TWO YEARS AGO UPPER VOLTUEWAS ABLE TO PROCURE A SIZEABLE AMOUNT THERE.) WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY/ACCRA ADVICE.

13. IN AN EARLIER CABLE, MISSION NOTED THAT A MAJOR QUESTION WAS WHETHER OR NOT SURPLUS FARMER STOCKS IN SURPLUS PRODUCTION AREAS MIGHT BE EXPECTED TO COME ON TO THE MARKET. (IT IS RECALLED THAT THE GON THROUGH THE OPVN ATTEMPTED TO PURCHASE 50,000 TONS OF MILLET LOCALLY AND WAS ABLE TO BUY ONLY ABOUT 13,000 TONS.) IT IS NOW THE VIEW OF OUR MISSION'S AGRICULTURAL ADVISOR, MR. LIVINGSTON , AND ADVISOR THAT THERE IS VERY LITTLE LIKELIHOOD THAT MUCH MILLET WILL COME ON THE MARKET AL ALL.

14. IN THE PRESENT SITUATION, IT HAS APPEARED TO OBSERVERS THAT THE CONSIERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN BY THE GON TO USE OF NIEBE (COWPEAS) FOR FREE DISTRIBUTION AND SALE. IN ITS FALL BUYING CAMPAIGN THE OPVN PURCHASED 48,000 TONS OF NIEBE FOR SALE TO NIGERIA. HOWEVER, NIGERIA HAS, REPORTEDLY, A SURPLUS THIS YEAR AND THE NIEBE ARE UNDER STORAGE IN VARIOUS DEPOTS IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE COUNTRY. GARA HAS SUGGESTED IN ADDITION THAT FREE DISTRIBUTION COULD BE HANDLED ON THE BASIS OF 1 KILO OF N203- 285# 1 OF GRAIN. THE PROBLEM IS THAT OPVN PURCHASED THE GRAIN WITH BDRN (LOCAL DEVELOPMENT BANK) CREDITS. GARA TODAY APPROACHED OPVN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DIRECTOR ANABO AND FOOD COORDINATOR OSSEIL TO SUGGEST THE GON SEEK DONOR ASSITANCE TO HELP COVER COSTS OF PROCURING AND DISTRIBUTING THE COWPEAS. BOTH ANABO AND OSSEIL RE-

SPONDED FAVORABLY. HOWEVER IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT PROCUREMENTAND DISTRIBUTION GRATIS WOULD INVOLVE A COST OF SOMETHING LIKE UP TO \$10 MILLION FOR 40,000 TONS. MISSION NEVERTHELESS JUDGES THAT THIS POSSIBILITY FOR FOOD ASSISTANCE NEEDS TO BE CONSIDERED BY DONORS. IN SOME INSTANCES FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO ENABLE THE GON TO USE ITS COWPEAS WOULD SEEM MORE APPROPRIATE THAN THE PROVISION OF CEREAL INPUTS WHICH MIGHT ARRIVE TOO LATE THIS YEAR TO MEET THE NEED. UNDERSTAND THAT GARA IS PROPOSING THIS TO OSRO.

15. IF THE VARIOUS FOOD AID CITED IN PARAGRAPHS 7, 8, 9, 10 MATERIALIZE, AND IF LOCAL SUPPLIES OF NIEBE CAN BE

TAPPED FOR FREE DISTRIBUTION, THE SITUATION WILL BE CONSIDERABLY EASED, OBVIOUSLY.

16. IN CONCLUSION WOULD NOTE THAT WE BELIEVE NIGER GOVERNMENT HAS ONLY IMPERFECT FEELING FOR MEASURES BEING TAKEN AND CONSIDERED BY DONORS TO ASSIST THEM. AND THIS IS A REASON FOR CURRENT HESITANCY TO COMMIT EXISTING FOOD STOCKS TO MEET NEEDS FOR SALE AND FREE DISTRIBUTION AROUND THE COUNTRY. MISSION FEELS THAT GON NAEDS MORE INFO ON DONOR INTENTIONS AND THAT THE APPROPRIATE COURSE WOULD BE TO HAVE THE GOVERNMENT INFORMED BY BADELL OF OSRO-EITHER BY LETTER OR BY VISIT, OR BOTH.
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